

evoke in us a sense of wonder and mystery. I have known that poignant feeling as I looked out across the rows of white crosses and Stars of David in Europe, in the Philippines, and the military cemeteries here in our own land. Each one marks the resting place of an American hero. Each died for a cause he considered more important than his own life, for the values which make up what we call civilization."

Freedom of speech and freedom to choose our religion, the responsibility of participating in our democracy through the ballot, the opportunity for achieving an education and earning a living—these are the defining pillars upon which our Nation is built, and these are the values that we must defend and pass along to our children.

This day leaves few hearts unmoved in recalling the brave men and women who died in defense of these values of freedom and democracy. Memorial Day is not about war or peace. It is about people who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

How can we best honor their memory? We must make our lives a tribute to them by sustaining the values for which they fought. We must teach our children the freedoms we enjoy are due to the sacrifices by the Americans who were willing to die for freedom. We must pass along to future generations the importance of education and work. We must remind our youth that their right to free speech and to vote must not be taken lightly. We must provide opportunities for all our children to participate in this Nation's abundance. We must retain such basic rights as health care, decent food and housing, protection of our precious environment, and education by making them our highest priorities.

In doing so, we will build a lasting memorial to our loved ones. Let us keep these commitments in our hearts as we commemorate Memorial Day, 1996.

#### A SALUTE TO ELIZABETH SPAULDING ALEXANDER

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 1996*

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Elizabeth Spaulding Alexander on the occasion of her retirement from the Philadelphia School District.

Ms. Alexander educated at Fayetteville State University, Marywood College, Temple University, University of the Arts and St. Joseph's University both in Philadelphia, began her tenure with the Philadelphia School District over 30 years ago. Ms. Alexander's teaching career has been marked by numerous awards and many classes of outstanding students. Alexander received the Celebration of Excellence in Teaching Award in 1986 and the Rose Lindebaum Improvement-of-Education Award in 1987. These awards presented to Ms. Alexander were in recognition of her creative teaching techniques, her willingness to involve her students in extracurriculum activities, and her volunteer activities as a tutor in the Adult Literacy Program. Ms. Alexander is an outstanding person who should be commended for her numerous contributions to the field of education in the Philadelphia community.

I wish to join today with the Philadelphia School District, Ms. Alexander's family and friends in recognizing her for her many years of service with the school district and the Philadelphia community. I wish you health, happiness, and prosperity in your retirement years. It is well deserved.

#### FREE PRESS IN INDIA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 1996*

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, the facade of a free press in India is crumbling before our eyes. Just the other day the Indian Government seized all the copies of the Kashmir Times newspaper. The seizure was reported in the May 13 issues of the Tribune of Chandigarh. I am introducing this article into the RECORD. According to the report, the newspaper was seized for printing objectionable material about the election process. This objectionable material is not specified. An Urdu-language newspaper, Awam, had been seized previously for similar reasons. India likes to tell the world that it has a free press, but this episode shows that this claim is false.

These seizures would be bad enough if they were isolated incidents. They are not. This repeats a pattern of Indian Government behavior which has previously been prevalent in Punjab, Khalistan, as well as Kashmir, and other states seeking self-determination. Many of us condemned those incidents, including a blanket censorship order imposed on Punjab, Khalistan, back in 1994. I hope that the new Government of India will move to put an end to this kind of repressive activity and that India will finally live up to its democratic principles.

[From the Tribune, May 13, 1996]

#### COPIES OF KASHMIR TIMES SEIZED

SRINAGAR, May 12.—The state authorities today seized all copies of the Jammu-based leading English daily, The Kashmir Times, at Srinagar airport.

The step was taken as the copies of the daily carried "objectionable material" regarding the on-going election process, the police said here.

The police had seized all copies of a national Urdu daily, Awam, for similar reasons on Friday last.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 1996*

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 21, 1996, the House of Representatives voted to repeal the 4.3-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline. Although I was unable to vote on this measure, H.R. 3415, I would have cast an "aye" vote in favor of the repeal.

While the history of excise taxes on motor fuel dates back to 1919, the 1993 gas tax increase was unprecedented. Part of the largest tax increase in U.S. history, it funneled dollars collected at the gas pumps not to help maintain and improve the safety and efficiency of our roads, but to fund the operations of the Federal Government.

As I have stated time and time again, and demonstrated in my votes on the House floor, I am a strong supporter of balancing the budget and reducing the Federal deficit. At the same time, I strongly believe that user-generated taxes, like the 4.3-cent gas tax, should be utilized for long-term capital improvement through the highway trust fund. As far as our budgetary woes in the general fund are concerned, our problem is not that we tax too little, but that we spend too much.

Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District is a sprawling terrain encompassing all or parts of 17 counties. It is the people who live in Warren, Renovo, and our other communities who are forced to pay higher prices at the pump. In the past few weeks, it has become more expensive for people to take their children to school; travel to and from work; or take a family vacation as summer travel begins. Especially now, they are in need of this relief.

By repealing the 4.3-cent tax, we will cease breaking faith with the American people. Meanwhile, to reduce the deficit, there are many avenues to pursue in search of Government streamlining and increased efficiency of Federal operations. People in rural Pennsylvania and from coast to coast should not be penalized with higher gas prices because of taxes that fund Big Government instead of badly needed roadway improvements.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMERICO VESPUCCI NAPOLITANO

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 1996*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we enter the Memorial Day weekend to pay tribute to a truly great American, Amerigo Vespucci Napolitano. Nappy, as he is known by friends, served his country in Ireland, England, and Normandy as a member of General George Patton's 3rd Army Division. He was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded during a battle in Brez, France.

Following his 6 years of service in the military, Nappy joined the U.S. Postal Service, where he was employed for 30 years.

After moving from Bridgeport to Trumbull, CT, Nappy joined American Legion Post 141 in the mid 1950's. Since that time he has been a stalwart member of the Post and is personally responsible for spearheading many of the organization's initiatives over the years. Having held every major position in the Post, he served as Post Commander on six occasions. Nappy was responsible for starting the Salvation Army bell-ringing project, the American Legion baseball team and the college scholarship program, as well as the Post's academic and scouting awards programs.

He is well-known as a tireless worker for his community and country and has given back to both in exemplary fashion over the years. He is a model for our youth and a symbol of that which is best in our country.

It has been my pleasure to pay respect to this great American as the entire country prepares to remember all those who served our Nation in its times of need.